#10:
THE PAINTER AND
THE ART DEALER
(PART TWO)

NOW, I DO NOT INTEND TO SELL KIEV'S WORKS.
IF A PAINTER IS BLESSED WITH TALENT, HIS WORKS WILL SELL FOR A HIGHER PRICE THE FEWER PAINTINGS HE HAS MADE
WHEN A WORK OF ART, SUCH AS A PAINTING, LEAVES THE PAINTER'S HANDS AND IS PLACED ON THE MARKET, IT BECOMES A PRODUCT.

AFTER ALL, THERE ARE ONLY 104 OF HIS PAINTINGS IN EXISTENCE, AND HE IS ALREADY DEAD...
NOW KIEV'S PAINTINGS WILL ONLY INCREASE IN VALUE

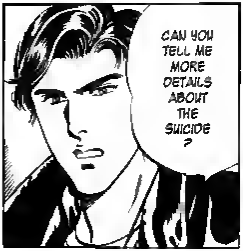
NOW JUST TO SEE HOW HE WILL ACT.
SO FAR, THINGS ARE GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN

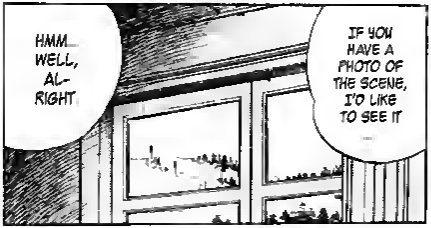
NORWAY
THEN FRANCO WAS DISCOVERED BY GUDRE... OR RATHER, THE GENIUS PAINTER MET THE GENIUS ART DEALER.
HE MUST HAVE PAINTED ON THE BANKS OF THE SEINE, AND SOLD THEM TO TOURISTS TO MAKE A LIVING.
FRANCIS FRANCO WENT TO FRANCE TO FOLLOW THE PATH OF A BUDDING ARTIST
ØKSFJORDBOTN
BUT WHAT I AM SURE OF IS THAT FRANCO TOOK THIS BOAT NORTH
I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF AGREEMENT THEY CAME TO.

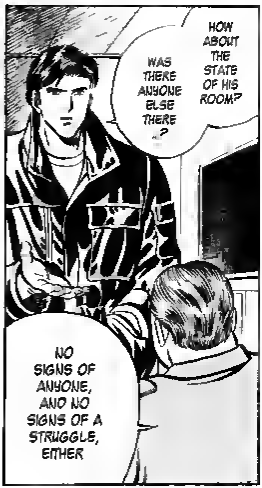
THIS IS A VERY REMOTE TOWN, AND I'M THE ONLY OFFICER ...
CAN I SPEAK TO THE OFFICER THAT FIRST ARRIVED AT THE SCENE?

YES, I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT A DUTCHMAN NAMED ULRICH DE KIEV
POLICE

AND TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, THE MOMENT HE HIT THE FLOOR, HIS BODY WEIGHT DROVE THE KNIFE ALL THE WAY TO THE HILT
HE HAD THE KNIFE IN A BACKHAND GRIP LIKE THIS.. AND HE STABBED HIMSELF RIGHT IN THE CHEST


CAN YOU TELL ME MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE SUICIDE ?

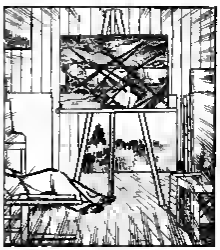

HMM... WELL, ALRIGHT
IF YOU HAVE A PHOTO OF THE SCENE, I'D LIKE TO SEE IT


HOW ABOUT THE STATE OF HIS ROOM?
WAS THERE ANYONE ELSE THERE ..?
NO SIGNS OF ANYONE, AND NO SIGNS OF A STRUGGLE, EITHER

I CAN'T EVEN TELL WHO THIS IS

NO, WE RULED IT A SUICIDE RIGHT AWAY, BASED ON WHAT WE SAW. THOSE ARE THE ONLY TWO PHOTOS WE HAVE.
DO YOU HAVE ANY PHOTOS THAT SHOW HIS FACE MORE CLEARLY ..?

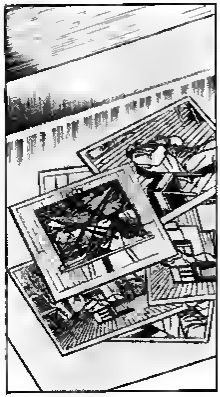
WELL..
WHERE IS THIS PAINTING NOW ?
THERE'S A HALF-FINISHED PAINTING ON AN EASEL IN THE CORNER OF THIS PHOTO-GRAPH

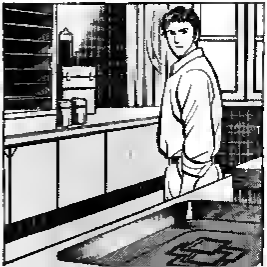


IT WAS STO-LEN !?
I DID HAVE IT STORED HERE, BUT IT WENT MISSING SOMEHOW
IS THAT SO
ONE OF THE KIDS MUST HAVE TAKEN IT AS A JOKE
THERE AREN'T ANY THIEVES IN THIS VILLA-GE!
THAT'S A SHA-ME

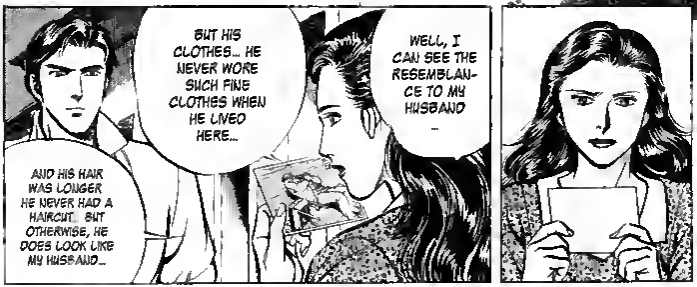
I SEE. KIEV MUST'VE STARTED WITH AN UNDERPAINTING, THEN PAINTED THE OVERPAINTING OVER IT, TO MAKE THE COLORS APPEAR BRIGHTER ON THE CANVAS

IT'S AN UNDER-PAIN-TING





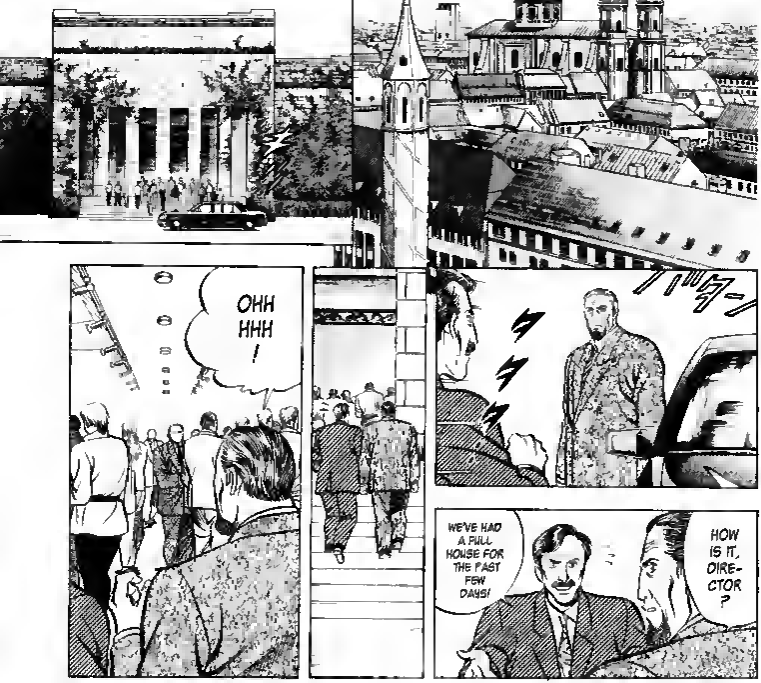
MADRID, SPAIN
OH, DEAR THERE YOU GO, IMITATING ME AGAIN..
ANITA, SAY HELLO


BUT HIS CLOTHES... HE NEVER WORE SUCH FINE CLOTHES WHEN HE LIVED HERE...
WELL, I CAN SEE THE RESEMBLANCE TO MY HUSBAND
AND HIS HAIR WAS LONGER HE NEVER HAD A HAIRCUT. BUT OTHERWISE, HE DOES LOOK LIKE MY HUSBAND...

NO! THERE IS ONE OTHER WAY...
IS THAT PHOTOGRAPH ALL YOU HAVE TO GO ON?
NONE OF THE PEOPLE IN THIS PART OF TOWN EVER HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN OF THEM
DO YOU HAVE A PHOTOGRAPH OF YOUR HUSBAND?
.....

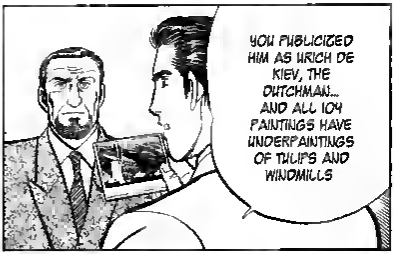
URICH DE KIEV EXHIBITION

MUNICH, GERMANY

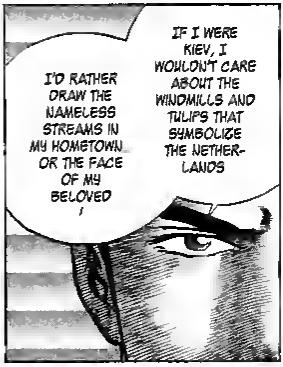

OHH HHH !
WE'VE HAD A FULL HOUSE FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS!
HOW IS IT, DIRECTOR ?
THE UNDER-PAINTING IS A WAY TO PREVENT THIS
THE UNDER-PAINTING CAN BE ANYTHING. IT COULD BE MONOCHROMATIC. BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE
!
ONCE THE ALCOHOL USED TO DISSOLVE THE PAINT EVAPORATES, THE TEXTURE OF THE CANVAS WILL COME THROUGH
EVEN IF YOU CAN GET THE RIGHT COLORS ON A WHITE CANVAS

IF URICH DE KIEV WAS THE SPANIARD FRANCIS FRANCO
!!
IT WOULD'VE BEEN A PAINTING OF A BULLFIGHT.. OF COURSE, NOT WHEN HE WAS IN NORWAY, FAR AWAY FROM HIS HOMELAND
OR IT COULD'VE BEEN A FLAMENCO DANCER, OUT OF LOVE FOR HIS WIFE
!!
BUT AT ANY RATE, THE MORE REMARKABLE THE WORK IS, THE MORE ORDINARY THE UNDER-PAINTING.. AND IT WOULD BE WHAT THE ARTIST WANTED TO PAINT MOST
YOU'RE... MR. ZERO !
BUT ALL YOH PAINTINGS ...
A HIGH-SENSITIVITY INFRARED CAMERA !

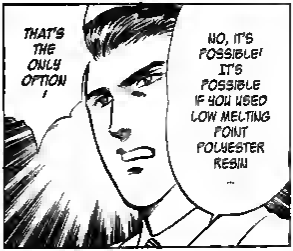
THAT JUST MADE ME EVEN MORE SUSPI-CIOUS
BUT BE-CAUSE THEY WERE ALL LIKE THAT ...


YOU PUBLICIZED HIM AS URICH DE KIEV, THE DUTCHMAN... AND ALL 104 PAINTINGS HAVE UNDERPAINTINGS OF TULIPS AND WINDMILLS

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE !
THIS MEANS YOU RE-PLACED ALL THE UNDER-PAIN-TINGS !

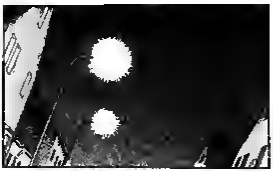

I'D RATHER DRAW THE NAMELESS STREAMS IN MY HOMETOWN OR THE FACE OF MY BELOVED !
IF I WERE KIEV, I WOULDN'T CARE ABOUT THE WINDMILLS AND TULIPS THAT SYMBOLIZE THE NETHER-LANDS

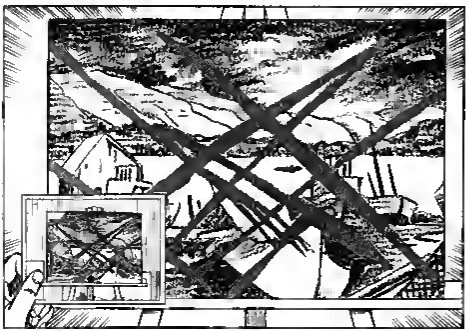
BUT HE'S ACTUALLY THE SPANIARD NAMED FRANCIS FRANCO !
URICH DE KIEV WAS A NAME YOU GAVE HIM, AND YOU MADE HIM CALL HIMSELF BY THAT NAME
HOW RUDE !
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY ?
I TAKE IT I'VE STRUCK A NERVE


THAT'S THE ONLY OPTION !
NO, IT'S POSSIBLE! IT'S POSSIBLE IF YOU USED LOW MELTING POINT POLYESTER RESIN ...

BUT I FELT THAT HIS PAINTINGS WOULDN'T SELL FOR ANOTHER 20 YEARS
HE WAS A MAN WITH GREAT TALENT.
I'VE SEEN THAT PAINTER'S EXHIBITS AT AN ART GALLERY OUTSIDE OF NICE
FRANCO IS DEAD, AND HE LEFT BEHIND 104 PAINTINGS UNDER THE ALIAS OF URICH DE KIEV...
SO FAR,
YOU DON'T MEAN --
!
THAT HE PLANNED TO KILL FRANCIS FRANCO TO MAKE THE VALUE OF HIS PAINTINGS GO UP!
I SHOULD'VE TOLD THAT TO HIS ART DEALER, BECAUSE THAT ART DEALER WAS SO HASTY TO MAKE A PROFIT...
THIS HAS GONE JUST AS YOU PLANNED !

NORWAY
KIEV'S STUDIO





ENDRE WAS RUNNING OUT OF FUNDS TO RUN THE DISPLAY, UNTIL FINALLY HE DECIDED TO PUT TEN PAINTINGS UP FOR AUCTION THAT NIGHT...!

JUST AS ZERO POINTED OUT, KIEV'S PAINTINGS WOULD NOT SELL AT A CERTAIN POINT, THE BIDS RAPIDLY DECLINED AND BOTTOMED OUT

LON-
DON,
EN-
GLAND

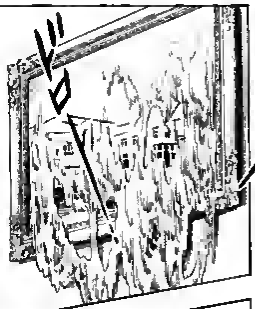
HURRY
!
HURRY
!

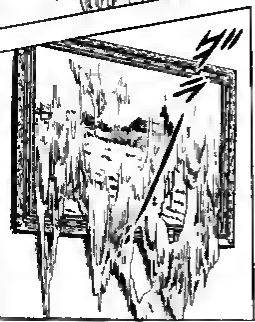
THIS CAN'T BE HAP-PENING

AAA AAA AAIII UGH !

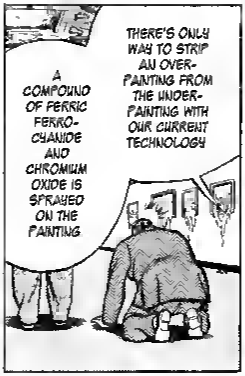
BOOT BOOT BOOT BOOT

BOOT BOOT BOOT BOOT

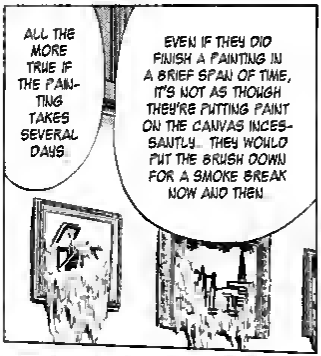




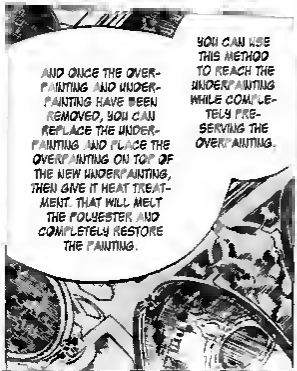
THE QUANTITY OF CHROMIUM MAKES A DIFFERENCE HERE... BUT IN THE CASE OF THESE PAINTINGS, IT WOULD BE 550 PPM


A COMPOUND OF FERRIC FERRO-CYANIDE AND CHROMIUM OXIDE IS SPRAYED ON THE PAINTING
THERE'S ONLY WAY TO STRIP AN OVER-PAINTING FROM THE UNDER-PAINTING WITH OUR CURRENT TECHNOLOGY

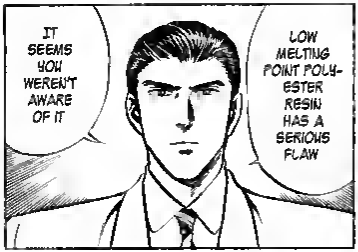
G GG GH
WHAT IN THE WORLD COULD HAVE HAPPE-NED ..?

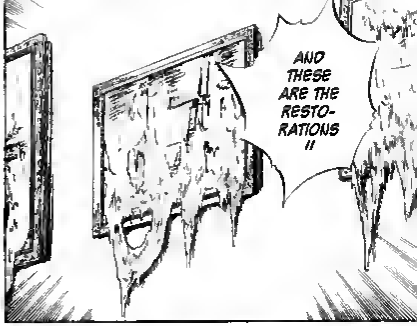

ALL THE MORE TRUE IF THE PAIN-TING TAKES SEVERAL DAYS.
EVEN IF THEY DID FINISH A PAINTING IN A BRIEF SPAN OF TIME, IT'S NOT AS THOUGH THEY'RE PUTTING PAINT ON THE CANVAS INCES-SANTLY... THEY WOULD PUT THE BRUSH DOWN FOR A SMOKE BREAK NOW AND THEN.

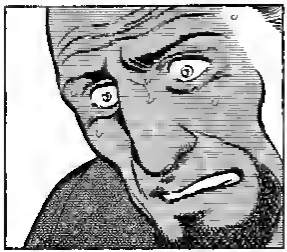
THERE ARE SOME PAINTERS WHO CAN FINISH A PAINTING IN A BRIEF AMOUNT OF TIME, WHILE OTHERS TAKE A DAY, A WEEK, OR SOME-TIMES SEVERAL MONTHS ON THE SAME PAINTING


AND ONCE THE OVER-PAINTING AND UNDER-PAINTING HAVE BEEN REMOVED, YOU CAN REPLACE THE UNDER-PAINTING AND PLACE THE OVER-PAINTING ON TOP OF THE NEW UNDER-PAINTING, THEN GIVE IT HEAT TREAT-MENT. THAT WILL MELT THE POLYESTER AND COMPLETELY RESTORE THE PAINTING.
YOU CAN USE THIS METHOD TO REACH THE UNDER-PAINTING WHILE COMPLE-TELY PRE-SERVING THE OVER-PAINTING.

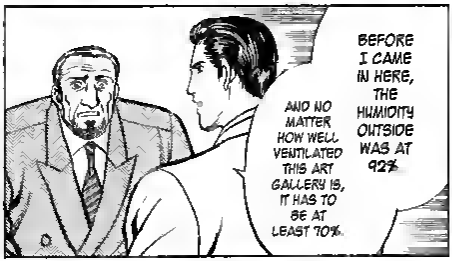
BY ADJUSTING THE QUANTITY OF CHROMIUM OXIDE AND PASTING LOW MELTING POINT POLYESTER RESIN ON THAT LAYER, YOU CAN STRIP THE LAYERS ONE AT A TIME.
SO WHEN THE PAINTER PUTS THE BRUSH DOWN, AND THE PAINT IS EXPOSED TO THE AIR, THE SURFACE OF THE PAINT OXIDIZES, FOR-MING A LAYER BETWEEN ITSELF AND THE NEXT BATCH OF PAINT.


IT SEEMS YOU WEREN'T AWARE OF IT
LOW MELTING POINT POLY-ESTER RESIN HAS A SERIOUS FLAW

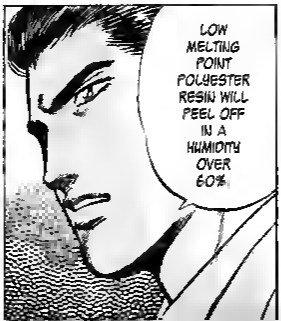

AND THESE ARE THE RESTO-RATIONS !!



I BELIEVE I TOLD YOU TO BEWARE THE FOG OF LONDON ...
MMM ... MGGH ...

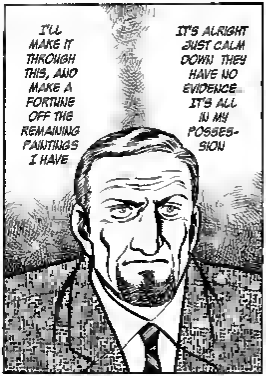

BEFORE I CAME IN HERE, THE HUMIDITY OUTSIDE WAS AT 92%
AND NO MATTER HOW WELL VENTILATED THIS ART GALLERY IS, IT HAS TO BE AT LEAST 70%.

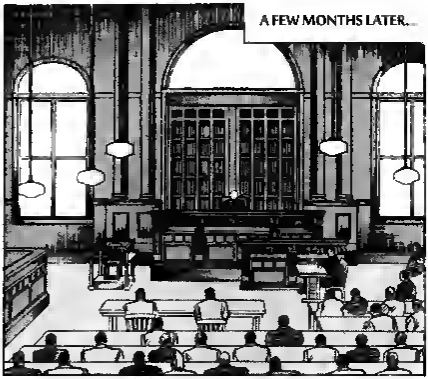
THIS ART GALLERY HAS A CONSTANT ROOM TEMPERATURE OF 17°C! BUT YOU CAN'T FORGET ABOUT LONDON'S HUMIDITY!
!


LOW MELTING POINT POLYESTER RESIN WILL PEEL OFF IN A HUMIDITY OVER 60%.

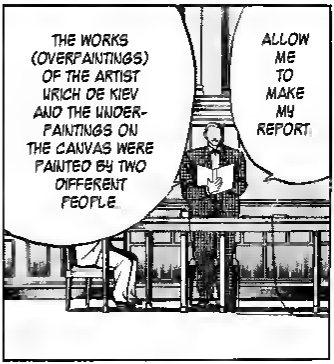
YES. HE'S A FIRST-RATE APPRAISER.
DE LA MOONEY!
NOW WE'LL KNOW WHETHER THE OVER-PAINTING AND UNDERPAINTING WERE DONE BY THE SAME PERSON
EVEN OR LEACHMAN, THE CHEMICAL APPRAISAL SPECIALIST -
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
AREN'T YOU A COUNTERFEITER THAT'S BRUSHED UP AGAINST THE LAW YOURSELF?
YOU'RE AN ART DEALER WITH TRUE INSIGHT, SEEING AS HOW YOU DISCOVERED FRANCO. BUT YOU KILLED THE TALENT THAT CREATED THE ORIGINALS OUT OF YOUR GREED
I ONLY CREATE ORIGINALS AND APPRAISE ORIGINALS ABOVE ALL ELSE, I RESPECT THOSE WHO CREATE ORIGINALS

AND YOU'LL PAY FOR IT BY LOSING IT ALL!


I'LL MAKE IT THROUGH THIS, AND MAKE A FORTUNE OFF THE REMAINING PAINTINGS I HAVE
IT'S ALRIGHT JUST CALM DOWN! THEY HAVE NO EVIDENCE. IT'S ALL IN MY POSSESSION

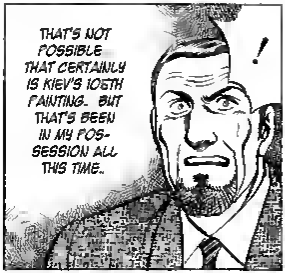

A FEW MONTHS LATER...

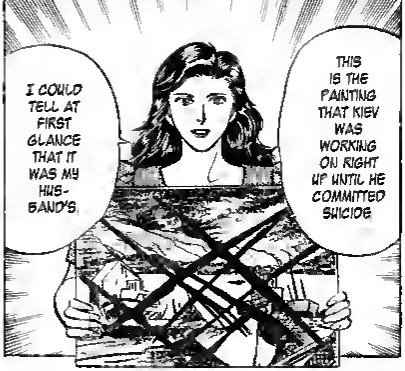
NO COMMENT!
MR. ENDRE, CAN YOU EXPLAIN WHY YOU REPLACED THE UNDERPAINTINGS?


THE WORKS (OVERPAINTINGS) OF THE ARTIST URICH DE KIEV AND THE UNDERPAINTINGS ON THE CANVAS WERE PAINTED BY TWO DIFFERENT PEOPLE.
ALLOW ME TO MAKE MY REPORT.

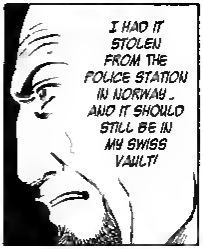
THE REASON IS
AND I'LL TELL YOU WHY HE HAD TO BE A DUTCHMAN NAMED URICH DE KIEV.
THEN I'LL TELL YOU.

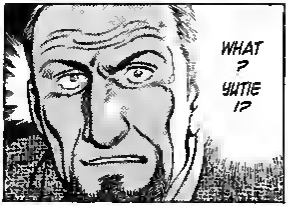
ALRIGHT, THEN LET'S STICK TO THE FACTS
ISN'T THE COURT SUPPOSED TO BE BUILT ON FACTS ?
OBJECTION, YOUR HONOR! THE PROSECUTOR IS MAKING BASELESS ASSUMPTIONS!
THAT IF A PERSON UNDER A FICTITIOUS NAME SUDDENLY DIES, NO ONE WILL THINK TO INQUIRE INTO IT!
I'D LIKE TO CALL A WOMAN WHO CLAIMS THAT KIEV IS HER HUSBAND TO THE STAND
WHY DO YOU THINK KIEV IS YOUR HUSBAND ?
FRANCIS FRANCO HE WAS A SPANIARD LIKE ME
WHAT IS YOUR HUSBAND'S NAME ?
MARIA FRANCO I AM A FLAMENCO DANCER
WHAT IS YOUR NAME, MADEMOISELLE ?

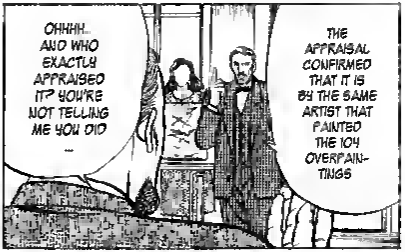

THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE THAT CERTAINLY IS KIEV'S 106TH PAINTING. BUT THAT'S BEEN IN MY POSSESSION ALL THIS TIME..
!

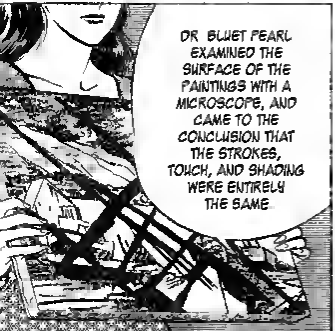

I COULD TELL AT FIRST GLANCE THAT IT WAS MY HUSBAND'S.
THIS IS THE PAINTING THAT KIEV WAS WORKING ON RIGHT UP UNTIL HE COMMITTED SUICIDE

I'VE ALREADY HAD IT APPRAISED.
WAIT JUST A MINUTE! HOW CAN YOU TELL THAT THAT'S KIEV'S POSTHUMOUS WORK?


I HAD IT STOLEN FROM THE POLICE STATION IN NORWAY. AND IT SHOULD STILL BE IN MY SWISS VAULT!


WHAT? YUTIE IS?


OHHHH.. AND WHO EXACTLY APPRAISED IT? YOU'RE NOT TELLING ME YOU DID ...
THE APPRAISAL CONFIRMED THAT IT IS BY THE SAME ARTIST THAT PAINTED THE 104 OVERPAINTINGS


DR. BLUET PEARL EXAMINED THE SURFACE OF THE PAINTINGS WITH A MICROSCOPE, AND CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE STROKES, TOUCH, AND SHADING WERE ENTIRELY THE SAME.

I HAD DR. LUDWIG YUTIE STUDY THE INEVITABLE STRUCTURAL SIMILARITIES
OF COURSE NOT. I'M AN AMATEUR WHEN IT COMES TO ART

THIS IS ONE OF THE ARTIST'S HABITS THAT CANNOT BE IMITATED!
THE YELLOW PORTIONS ARE THICKER ON THE LEFT AND THINNER ON THE RIGHT, WHILE THE WHITE PORTIONS ARE THICKER ON THE RIGHT AND THINNER ON THE LEFT.
AND ACCORDING TO THE TECHNICAL SPECIALIST WOERTER TALLMANN'S EXAMINATION OF THE PAINT'S THICKNESS VIA UV RAYS...
THEY'RE ALL AUTHORITATIVE ART APPRAISERS IF I WERE TO QUESTION THEIR FINDINGS, THEN I'D BE CALLING THE AUTHENTICITY OF ALL THE ART IN THE WORLD INTO QUESTION
I SEE
I'M FACING ZERO RIGHT NOW!
IT'S ZERO... IT'S HIS FORGERY...!
BUT THAT SAID, WHAT PROOF DO YOU HAVE THAT KIEV IS FRANCIS FRANCO?
I'LL CONCEDE THAT THEY ARE BY THE SAME PERSON
I DO.
MADEMOISELLE! DO YOU HAVE ANY PROOF AT ALL THAT KIEV IS YOUR HUSBAND?

!?
FIRST, POUR A BOTTLE OF WHISKEY INTO THE PAN

!

WHAT IS SHE TRYING TO DO ?

THEN TURN ON THE GAS STOVE
ADD THE PORK, AND SQUEEZE THREE LEMONS

THE MIXTURE OF ALCOHOL, ACID, AND ALKALINE WILL BE ABLE TO STRIP THE PAINT OF THE OVERPAINTING!

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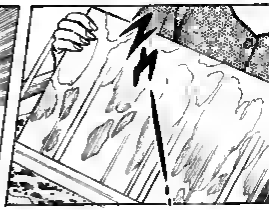
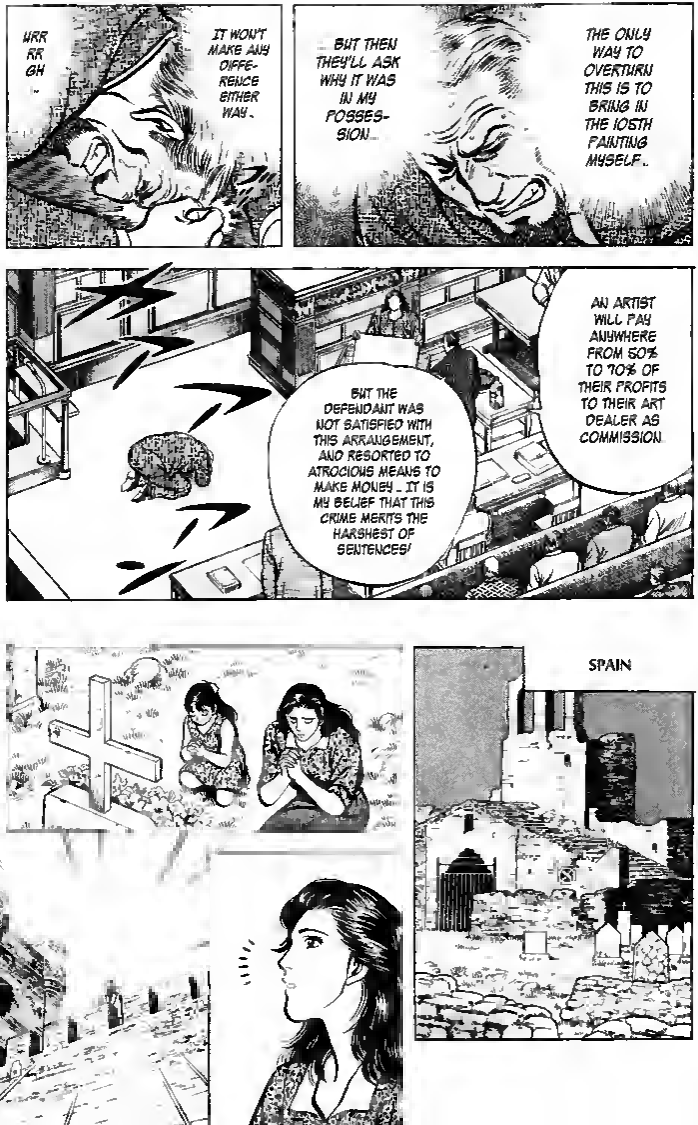
IT'S HER!



OHH HHH!

YATTE. AND PEARL.. AND TALLMEN.. THERE'S NOT A SINGLE PERSON WHO WOULD DARE CALL THAT A FORGERY
..
AND IF THEY APPRAISE IT, THEY'LL SAY THAT THE OVERPAINTING AND UNDER-PAINTING WERE DONE BY THE SAME PAINTER.
I'VE LOST
..


WRR RR GH ~
IT WON'T MAKE ANY DIFFE-RENCE EITHER WAY.
... BUT THEN THEY'LL ASK WHY IT WAS IN MY POSSES-SION...
THE ONLY WAY TO OVERTURN THIS IS TO BRING IN THE 105TH PAINTING MYSELF..
AN ARTIST WILL PAY ANYWHERE FROM 50% TO 70% OF THEIR PROFITS TO THEIR ART DEALER AS COMMISSION
BUT THE DEFENDANT WAS NOT SATISFIED WITH THIS ARRANGEMENT, AND RESORTED TO ATROCIOUS MEANS TO MAKE MONEY. IT IS MY BELIEF THAT THIS CRIME MERITS THE HARSHEST OF SENTENCES!
SPAIN

NO, YOU DO!
BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO OFFER YOU...
I ALWAYS TAKE MY CLIENT'S MOST VALUABLE POSSESSION AS MY REWARD
I DON'T KNOW HOW I CAN REPAY YOU
THE EARNEST LIFE OF A NAMELESS PERSON IS THE GREATEST FORM OF ART... AND TO ME, THAT IS THE GREATEST REWARD!

JUMP COMICS DELUXE

# ZERO

## THE MAN OF THE CREATION

WRITTEN BY AI EISHI
ART BY SATOMI KEI

Vol. 1

CHAPTER 10
PRESENTED BY
HOKUTO NO GUN

TRANSLATED BY
SYSTEMATICCHAOS

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SUPER ANIME COMICS